Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 20 and 34 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Thus, claims 1-47 are pending.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-47 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,810,339 issued to Wills (*Wills*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,065,458 issued to Tran, et al. (*Tran*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 1-47 are not rendered obvious by *Wills* and *Tran*.

Claim 1 recites:

> a voltage sampling circuit coupled to the plurality of generators to sample voltage levels of the power network, wherein a sampling rate of the voltage sampling circuit is greater than a frequency of the power supplied to the power network; and
>
> a trigger circuit coupled with the voltage sampling circuit to, in response to a triggering event based on the voltage level of the power network, cause samples corresponding to a predetermined time period preceding the triggering event and a predetermined time period after the triggering event to be stored for subsequent analysis, wherein the triggering event comprises voltage fluctuations in which the voltage level of the power network either drops below a predetermined percentage of turbine rated voltage or exceeds a predetermined percentage of the turbine rated voltage.

Thus, Applicants claim use of a triggering event based on the voltage level of a power network as it compares to a percentage of turbine rated voltage.

Wills is directed to a method to monitor distributed power generation. See Abstract. *Wills* is cited to teach a voltage sampling rate that is greater than the frequency

of the power network. However, the cited portion of *Wills* does not address sampling rate.

The passage of *Wills* that allegedly recites the claimed sampling rate recites:

> The "repeated changes in the same direction" or "trends" that invoke accelerating functions may be simply two same-direction events following each other, or two time samples that show the same trend. They may also include averaging or sampling means for instance, three or more changes in the same direction may be needed to invoke acceleration, or any other suitable function could be used to control the accelerating response. Typically, the accelerating response function would be implemented in software based on repeated time samples of the grid voltage and frequency.

See Office Action at page 2, last paragraph and *Wills* at col. 10, lines 15-24. Acceleration refers to operation of the power generator and not to the sampling rate. This passage does not even address sampling rate. Therefore, this passage, as cited in the Office Action, cannot be used to teach the claimed concept of a voltage sampling rate that is greater than the frequency of the power network.

Further, *Wills* does not address use of turbine rated voltage for monitoring purposes. *Wills* utilizes voltage change ***as a percentage of nominal grid voltage***. See col. 9, lines 59-60. Therefore, *Wills* teaches making comparisons utilizing different values.

Tran is directed to data acquisition devices used in low-power environments. See col. 1, lines 21-36 and col. 4, lines 9-28. Specifically, *Tran* is directed to data acquisitions in binary environments. See col. 5, lines 26-29. *Tran* does not cure the deficiencies of *Will* set forth above as *Tran* is directed to data acquisition.

Specifically, *Tran* teaches capturing of data only ***after*** a trigger enable. See 320 and 360 in Figure 3 with accompanying description. Nothing in *Tran* suggests the desirability of capturing data before and/or during the trigger event. Therefore, *Tran* ***teaches away*** from the combination suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, the combination of *Wills* and *Tran* set forth in the Office Action cannot render obvious the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 2-19 are not rendered obvious by *Wills* and *Tran* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 20 recites:

> monitoring a voltage output from a plurality of wind turbine generators coupled to a power network by sampling voltage levels of the power network, wherein a sampling rate of the voltage sampling circuit is greater than a frequency of the power supplied to the power network; and
> determining whether the sampled voltage levels are within a predetermined operating range based on rated voltage of the wind turbine generators…

Thus, Applicants claim use of a sampling rate that is greater than the frequency of the power network and determining whether a sampled voltage is within a range based on rated voltage of the wind turbine generators. Claim 34 recites similar limitations.

As discussed above, neither *Wills* nor *Tran* address sampling at a rate greater than the power network frequency nor use of a rated voltage for determining a triggering event. Therefore, no combination of *Wills* and *Tran* can teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 20 and 34.

Claims 21-33 depend from claim 20. Claims 35-47 depend from claim 34. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend,

Applicants submit that claims 21-33 and 35-47 are not rendered obvious by *Wills* and *Tran* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-47 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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